

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for notifying the driver of a motor vehicle equipped with an adaptive distance and speed controller (1,4) by activating (23) or deactivating (22) a takeover prompt (13,15), which informs the driver that the vehicle is coming critically close to a target object, wherein the activation (23) and deactivation (22) of the takeover prompt (13,15) occurs as a function

— of a fixed minimum distance between the distance- and speed-controlled vehicle and the target object

and/or

— of a relative speed-dependent minimum distance of the distance- and speed-controlled vehicle in relation to a target object

and/or

— a maximum vehicle deceleration producible by the distance and speed controller.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the takeover prompt is a visual display (13) in the field of view of the driver and/or an acoustic signal (15) in the vehicle interior.

3. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the takeover prompt is also output when the driver overrides the distance and speed control system.

4. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the activation thresholds (19) and the deactivation thresholds (20) of the takeover prompt are not identical.

5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the system for distance and speed control emits and receives radar signals, with the aid of which preceding vehicles can be recognized as target objects.

6. A device for the distance and speed control of a motor vehicle, which outputs a takeover prompt, informing the driver that the vehicle is coming critically close to a target object,

wherein the activation and deactivation of the takeover prompt occurs as a function

— of a fixed minimum distance between the distance- and speed-controlled vehicle and the target object

and/or

— of a relative speed-dependent minimum distance between the distance- and speed-controlled vehicle and a target object

and/or

— a maximum vehicle deceleration producible by the distance and speed controller.

7. The device as recited in Claim 6,

wherein the takeover prompt takes the form of a visual display in the field of view of the driver and/or an acoustic signal in the vehicle interior.

8. The device as recited in one of Claims 6 through 7,

wherein the system for distance and speed control (4) emits and receives radar signals, with the aid of which preceding vehicles can be recognized as a target objects.